


Sevier Cnty  
General Correspondence  
NOTAS

August 2, 2010

TO: Paul Baker   
FROM: John Rogers  
SUBJECT: Dynamite detonation Sevier County, Utah 7/7/2010

On July 6, 2010 the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) was contacted by Terry Krasko (Forest Service Mineral Program Manager --- Fishlake National Forest). He indicated that during a routine bat inspection of an old mine adit that a case of old sweaty, crystalline dynamite had been found. This type of dynamite is very unstable and easily detonated with any kind of movement or contact. It was obviously a very dangerous situation that needed to be addressed immediately. The location was about 1 mile northwest of Big Rock Candy Mountain in Sevier County, Utah. It was just on the border inside the Forest Service boundary. The mine is located T26S R4W SE SW SW OF SEC 19 SL base meridian. The landowner is now disputing the location of the mine. It is their position that the mine is on their property. This is an issue that is currently being addressed with the Forest Service and will be resolved with a new survey. This situation has nothing to do with the safety hazard created, only a side issue that is concurrently being address by the Forest Service and complicates the matter. There is no active permit for this mine site.

On July 7, 2010 John Rogers (DOGM) met with Terry Kraskow of the Forest Service, a Forest Service law enforcement officer and three Sevier County Sheriffs at the mine site. John went down to see if there was active mining at the site. It was determined that there was no active mining at the present time or in recent history. Access to the mine is over a 2-mile road that is very steep, rocky and rutted; it crosses through private and Forest Service land. A locked gate prevented access to the road. The lock was place illegally on Forests Service land by Thayne Henry (self stated local hobby miner) and was cut off by the Forest Service. A new gate, with Forest Service lock has been constructed by the Forest Service to prevent vehicular access on the road. The Forrest Service considers this a service road and not for public use, except for foot traffic. The only vehicular public access will be by the land locked private property owner—Joan Smith.

At the mine site, the hazardous material officer with the Sevier County Sheriff's office entered the mine to inspect the dynamite in question. The adit is approximate 30 feet from the road and the dynamite was about 60 feet into the mine. The sheriff visually inspected the dynamite and was concerned with the danger of the situation to the public. No one else entered the mine. The sheriff department determined that this situation must be taken care of immediately. The explosives unit that operated out of Utah County was immediately dispatched to the scene. With the gate open and unlocked, the area was monitored so that no access to the area could be obtained and present a hazard to the public.

Approximately 4 hours after the initial call, the explosive team detonated the dynamite. The origin of the dynamite is still in question and the Forest Service law enforcement and Sevier County Sheriff is investigating the situation.

### Conclusion

- No active mining is currently taking place.
- The dynamite was safely detonated by a professional explosives team with no hazard to the public.
- Forest Service and Sevier County Sheriff are investigating the origin of the dynamite.
- The Forest Service has constructed a locked gate to prevent any further motorized access to the area.
- The area will be monitored by the Forest Service and DOGM to see if any unpermitted mining is initiated in the area.

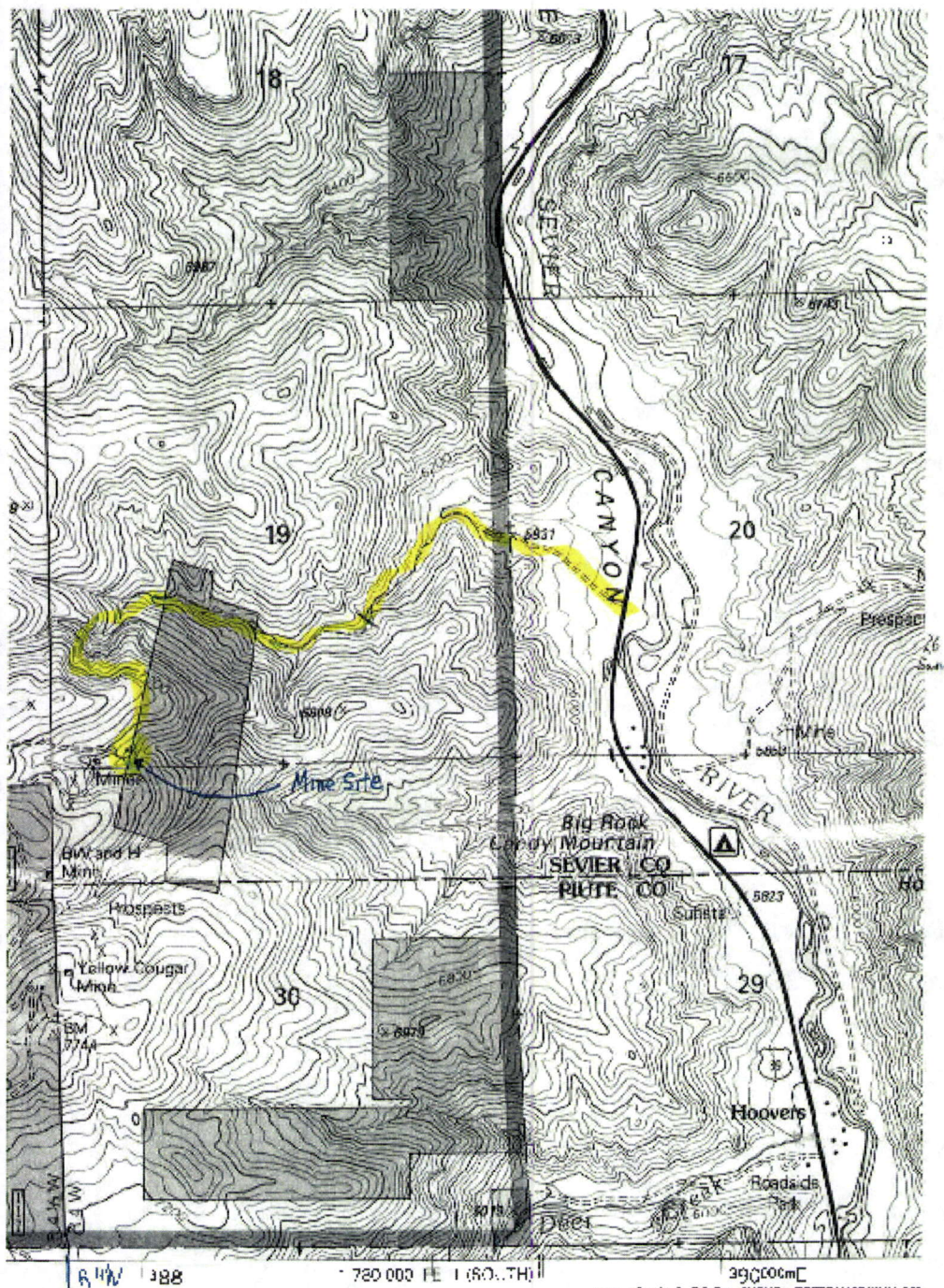
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 Light-duty road  
 Composite